

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

1        A method and apparatus are disclosed for using unused address bits of an IPv6 address to  
2        carry quality of service (QoS) request information over a computer network, such as the Internet,  
3        so that at intermediate nodes along the network the routers and switches thereat may easily  
4        determine the QoS being requested for packets and forward the packets with the requested QoS.